

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9. (canceled)

Claim 10. (new) An information processing apparatus, comprising:

first storage means for storing reference information including user information and characteristic information of said information processing apparatus;

reception means for receiving first information encrypted with a first key and second information containing one or more usage conditions of said first information and one or more usage details for said usage conditions;

usage detail selection means for selecting usage details of said second information received by said reception means based on said usage conditions of said second information and said reference information stored in said first storage means;

second storage means for storing usage history of using said first information according to said usage details selected by said usage detail selection means;

usage control information generation means for generating usage control information for said first information based on said usage details selected by usage detail selection means and said usage history stored by said second storage means; and

control means for controlling said first information according to said usage control information generated by said usage control information generation means.

Claim 11. (new) The information processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said control means decrypts said first information encrypted with said first key with a

second key which is distributed from a key distribution center and having an expiration date after which said second key cannot be used.

Claim 12. (new) The information processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the usage detail selected by said usage detail selection means also includes control transfer status information which shows whether or not said first information can be transferred to other apparatuses.

Claim 13. (new) The information processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the usage history stored by said second storage means also includes usage type information of when said first information is used.

Claim 14. (new) An information processing method of an information processing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

storing reference information including user information and characteristic information of said information processing apparatus;

receiving first information encrypted with a first key and second information containing one or more usage conditions of said first information and one or more usage details for said usage conditions;

selecting usage details of said second information received based on said usage conditions of said second information and the stored reference information;

storing usage history of using said first information according to the selected usage details;

generating usage control information for said first information based on the selected usage details and the stored usage history; and
controlling said first information according to the generated usage control information.

Claim 15. (new) The information processing method according to claim 14, wherein said first key for encrypting said first information is encrypted with a second key which is distributed from a key distribution center and having an expiration date after which said second key cannot be used.

Claim 16. (new) The information processing method according to claim 14, wherein the selected usage detail also includes control transfer status information which shows whether or not said first information can be transferred to other apparatuses.

Claim 17. (new) The information processing method according to claim 14, wherein the stored usage history also includes usage type information of when said first information is used.